

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 13-28 were presented for examination and all, except claims 7-9 and 16-18, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 7-9 and 16-18 were objected to because they depended from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. For the interest of having the application being issued, claims 1, 10, and 19 are being amended to include limitations of claims 7 (and 16) so that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and claims 7 and 16 are being canceled

As indicated, claims 7 and 16 would be allowable (Final Office Action, paragraph 14, page 9) if being rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for convenience for both Applicant and the Examiner, instead of claim 7 is being amended, it is canceled and its limitation is incorporated into its base claim, which is claim 1. Similarly, claim 16 is being canceled and its limitation is incorporated into its base claim, which is claim 10. As a result, claims 1 and 10 are now patentable and are in condition for allowance. Claim 19 is being amended to include limitation of claim 7, and therefore is patentable.

Claims 2-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 11-18 depend directly or indirectly from claim 10 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 10.

Claims 19-20 recite limitations corresponding to claims 1 and 2 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 and 2.

Claims 21-24 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

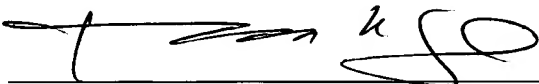
Claims 25-28 recite limitations corresponding to claims 21-24 and are therefore patentable for the same reasons as claims 21-24.

SUMMARY

In conclusion, it is submitted that all pending claims 1-28, excluding canceled claims 3, 7, 12, and 16, are in condition for allowance. Issuance of the application is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/1/05

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